

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 /046 W

----- 102606

R 271221Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2575

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3252

H/W COPY OF CAPE TOWN #0767 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QUOTE

R 081230Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO RUEHPC/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 5468

INFO RUEHPCD/AMCONSUL DURBAN 1985

RUEHPCJ/AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG 2627

B T

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0767

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, SF

SUBJ: EXPANSION OF UPINGTON AIRPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ANNOUNCED AUGUST 6 THAT GOVERNMENT WILL CONVERT UPINGTON AIRPORT(IN NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE) TO ENABLE SAA TO MAKE "ECONOMIC NON-STOP" FLIGHTS TO EUROPE WITH ITS BOEING 747 AIRCRAFT. ACCORDING TO PRESS UPINGTON PROJECT IS AN EMERGENCY STEP TO ENSURE THERE IS NO POLITICALLY INSPIRED DISRUPTION OF SAA'S SCHEDULED SERVICE TO EUROPE BEFORE BOEING'S SPECIAL PERFORMANCE SP JUMBOS ALREADY ON ORDER. COME INTO SERVICE AS WELL AS TO ENSURE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF SAA INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS. AT PRESENT SAA'S 747S ARE UNABLE TO MAKE
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NON-STOP FLIGHTS TO EUROPE WITH FULL PAYLOAD FROM JOHANNESBURG OR

WINDHOEK BECAUSE OF THE ALTITUDE OF JAN SMUTS AND J.H.STRYDOM AIRPORTS. UPINGTON AIRPORT HAS AN ELEVATION APPROXIMATELY 900 METERS LOWER THAN JAN SMUTS AND WINDHOEK AIRPORTS.

2. EXTENSIONS COSTING ABOUT R8.5M ARE TO BE MADE UNDER CRASH PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF NEW 5,999 METERS RUNWAY, TAXIWAY LINKS, AND APRON WITH ASSOCIATED FUELING FACILITIES, ROAD LINKS, FENCING, RUNWAY AND TAXIWAY LIGHTING, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, AND INCREASED POWER AND WATER SUPPLY. NO TERMINAL BUILDING EXTENSIONS AND NO FACILITIES FOR CONNECTING PASSENGERS ARE ENVISAGED AT PRESENT.

3. TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK HAVE ALREADY BEEN INVITED AND WORK IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION WITH 5 MONTHS, I.E. BY YEAR END. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT PLANS TO ISSUE TENDERS FOR EQUIPMENT SUCH AS NAVIGATIONAL AIDS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO U.S. SUPPLIERS. ASSUME THIS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT, DIV. OF CIVIL AVIATION, PRETORIA.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO DEPARTMENT INCLUDING COMMERCE FOR CHOHE, AND TO CASABLANCA FOR RCAA WHITMAN UNLESS ALREADY REPORTED. ALSO REQUEST EMBASSY OBTAIN AND REPORT ANY INFORMATION ON TENDERS OF INTEREST TO U.S. COMPANIES. GAMON UNQUOTE.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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